

Surpassing 6,000 “Averaged Bases”: A Peek at the Peak Careers

Of the 30 players in the Batter’s Hall of Fame, 18 maintained the skilled longevity to surpass the 6,000 “Averaged Bases” mark. In the “Barry Code,” it is found that these 6,000 bases are no empty milestone, for they are the equivalent of 15 years of 400 AvBa, which in turn can be translated to 15 years of 100 Runs Recounted (AvBa divided by 4). It is most interesting to survey the “elite 18” to note where their BAMs stood following the season they surpassed the 6,000 AvBa mark. Almost inevitably (with a most curious exception)*, beyond these most significant of seasons, the batters’ BAMs declined:

	<u>Season</u> <u>Surpassing</u> <u>6,000 AvBa</u>	<u>AvBa</u> <u>After</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>At-Bat</u> <u>Outs After</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>BAM</u> <u>After</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>Bam</u> <u>After</u> <u>Career</u>	<u>Career</u> <u>Equivalent</u> <u>100 RR</u> <u>Seasons</u>	<u>Career</u> <u>Actual</u> <u>100 RR</u> <u>Seasons</u>
B. Ruth	1930	6547	4249	1.540 (1)	1.510	20.8	12
T. Williams	1957	6345	4361	1.455 (2)	1.407	17.8	9
L. Gehrig	1936	6201	4481	1.383 (3)	1.362	18.0	13
J. Foxx	1940	6242	4728	1.320 (4)	1.254	17.2	11
B. Bonds	2001	6469	5619	1.151 (6)	1.236	21.4	12
R. Hornsby	1934	6010.5	5183	1.160 (5)	1.156	15.2	6
F. Thomas	2007	6226	5544	1.123 (8)	Active	15.6	10
M. Mantle	1967	6063.5	5355	1.132 (7)	1.111	15.6	7
M. Ott	1942	6238.5	5626	1.109 (10)	1.083	17.8	8
T. Cobb	1923	6330.5	5865	1.079 (11)	1.074	19.4	4
S. Musial	1956	6042	5403	1.118 (9)	1.061	19.5	10
W. Mays	1966	6031.5	5606	1.076 (12)	1.020	19.4	11
G. Sheffield	2007	6093	6010	1.014 (15)	Active	15.2	6
F. Robinson	1971	6149.5	5913	1.040 (13)	1.010	17.8	7
K. Griffey, Jr.	2007	6307.5	6268	1.006 (17)	Active	15.8	6
T. Speaker	1926	6307	6189	1.019 (14)	1.005	16.8	3
H. Aaron	1968	6165.5	6097	1.011 (16)	1.003	21.5	11
M. Schmidt	1988	6011	6000	1.002 (18)	.996	15.2	7

Note:

*Only player whose BAM rose after their “6,000” season? Barry Bonds, also the only man to have his best BAM season beyond his 40th birthday! This “career peak” runs risk of asterisk, as does his entire “peak career”

As of now, let us peek at Bonds’ standing in Codell’s six categories of statistical success. Amazingly, Barry rates: first in Batting Bases, second in Averaged Bases, third in Tallied Bases, fourth in B-BOP, fifth in BAM, and sixth in B-TOP, among career leaders!

Final flourish: Asteroid or a steroid? Bonds is the only player whose final year (assuming he remains unsigned) shows a better BAM than the rest of his career.

March 2008 – Barry said to “The Don”: “Average more than 6,000 bases with less than 6,000 outs and you’re a made man!”